

First ICOD Symposium

Innovative therapeutic approaches for cognitive impairment in Down syndrome

In occasion of the World Down syndrome Day (21st of march 2022)

Troina, March 20- 21st 2022
CITTADELLA DELL'OASI
Troina, Italy



**Scientific Programme ICOD
Committee Coordinator**
Filippo Caraci (*University of Catania & Oasi
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International Scientific Committee

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Rafael De La Torre (*Barcelona*)
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Filippo Drago (*Catania*)
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Pier Vincenzo Piazza (*Bordeaux*)

The Italian Task Force for DS

Local Scientific Committee

**Eleonore Venin, Lorenzo Mercadante, Concetta
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Local Organizing Secretariat

**Eleonora Di Fatta, Alba Romeo,
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Rationale

Down syndrome (DS) causes life-long cognitive impairment which results in significant consequences for the individuals, their families and society leading to a reduced **quality of life and social stigma**. Despite this heavier social burden and the greater medical needs, **there is not an approved therapy for DS-related cognitive impairment yet**.

The ICOD project (Improving COgnition in Down syndrome), funded by European Union, aims to address these unmet clinical needs with a first-in-class new pharmacological treatment (AEF0217) specifically designed to address the core cognitive impairment of individuals with DS: **working memory**. Working memory and memory flexibility play an important role in everyday tasks like following instructions, planning activities or understanding a conversation.

The **first ICOD symposium** will take place in **Troina in 2022 at IRCCS Oasi Research Institute** on the occasion of the World Down syndrome Day (March 21st). The symposium will be specifically dedicated to **increase the knowledge about innovative therapeutic approaches** in the management of cognitive deficits in DS.

This event will include:

- **Pre-symposium meeting** (March 20th, 16:00-19:00): the first face-to-face meeting of the ICOD consortium.
- The World Down syndrome Day (March 21st) will be dedicated to discuss in lay terms the most relevant findings in the field of cognition in DS. **Discussion sections** have been planned for **families and associations** to promote face-to-face interaction with researchers involved in the ICOD project as well as with other researchers working in the field of DS.
- This event will be designed in close **cooperation with the European Down syndrome Association** (EDSA) and associations of each participating European country; in particular with Italian Down syndrome organizations, such as the Italian Association for Down syndrome individuals (AIPD), the National Coordination of the Italian Associations of individuals with Down syndrome ([/https://www.coordown.it](https://www.coordown.it)).

Sunday March 20th 2022

16:00h - 19:00h

Pre-symposium: the first F2F meeting of the ICOD project

The European consortium is led by IMIM (Rafael de la Torre, Barcelona, Spain) and AELIS FARMA (Stephanie Monlezun & Pier Vincenzo Piazza, Bordeaux, France) in collaboration with Oasi Research Institute (Filippo Caraci, UniCT, Catania & Oasi Troina, Italy), Institut Jérôme Lejeune (Sophie Durand, Paris, France), Centre Hospitalier Universitaire (Renaud Touraine, Saint-Etienne, France) and the Hospital Universitario de la Princesa (Diego Real de Asúa, SERMAS, Madrid, Spain).

Monday March 21st, 2022

09:00h - 09:15h

Introduction to the ICOD symposium

(Filippo Caraci, Italy)

Session 1: Cognition in DS Introduced and moderated by Filippo Caraci (Italy)

09:15 - 09:45

Understanding and treating cognitive deficits in DS: the innovative approach of the ICOD project

Rafael de la Torre, Spain

09:45 - 10:15

What is behind cognitive dysfunction in DS? From understanding the neurobiology to therapy

Mara Dierssen, Spain

10:15 - 10:45

Cognitive assessment in DS: what, why and how

Beatriz Fagundo, Spain

10:45 - 11:30

Discussion with families and associations: expectations about therapy for cognitive deficits: what do families know and what they expect.

Chaired by Diego Real De Asua (Spain) & Marzia Perluigi, (Italy)

11:30 - 11.45 / Break

11:45 - 12:15

The involvement and expectations of families in clinical research: ethical aspects

Ségolène Aymé, (France)

12:15 - 13:30

Scientists meet DS associations and families: the key role of Italian DS Task Force

Lucio Nitsch & Renata Bartesaghi, (Italy)

13:30 - 15:00 / Lunch

Session 2: Cognition in DS Introduced and moderated by Rafael De La Torre (Spain)

15.00-15.30

Ageing in DS, a genetic form of Alzheimer's disease

Marzia Perluigi, (Italy)

15:30-16:00

An innovative psychometric tool for the evaluation of cognitive deficits in DS: the Bordeaux maze test

Nicole Etchamendy, (France)

16:00-16:15 / Break

Monday March 21st, 2022

Session 3: Innovative strategies for the diagnosis and treatment of cognitive deficits in DS

Introduced and moderated by Filippo Drago (Italy)

16:15 - 17:00

AEF0217: a new path for the treatment of cognitive impairment in DS

Pier Vincenzo Piazza, (France)

17:00 - 17:30 (20 min talk, 10 min questions)

Discussion with families and associations: Timing of therapies for DS: when, what, how long.

Chaired by Stephanie Monlezun (France) & Stefano Vicari (Italy)

17:30 - 18:00

Psychopathological features, cognitive dysfunction and comorbidity in DS

Stefano Vicari (Italy)

18:00 - 18:30

The ICOD project (Improving COgnition in Down syndrome): what will it bring to families?

Rafael De La Torre & Filippo Caraci

18:30 - 19:00

Discussion with families and associations: the importance of research for people with DS

Chaired by Sophie Durand and Renaud Touraine, (France)

19:00 - 19:15

Concluding remarks

Rafael De La Torre, (Spain)

